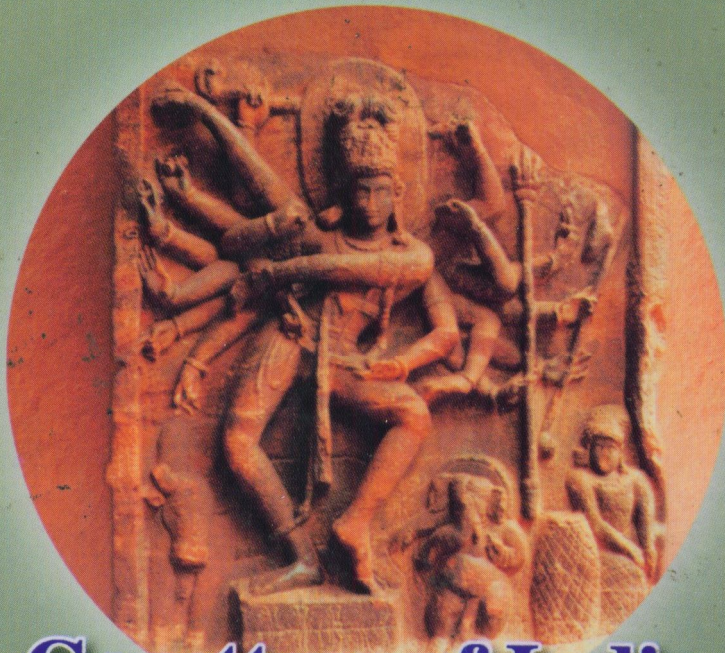




# BIJAPUR

Editor

**James M. Campbell**

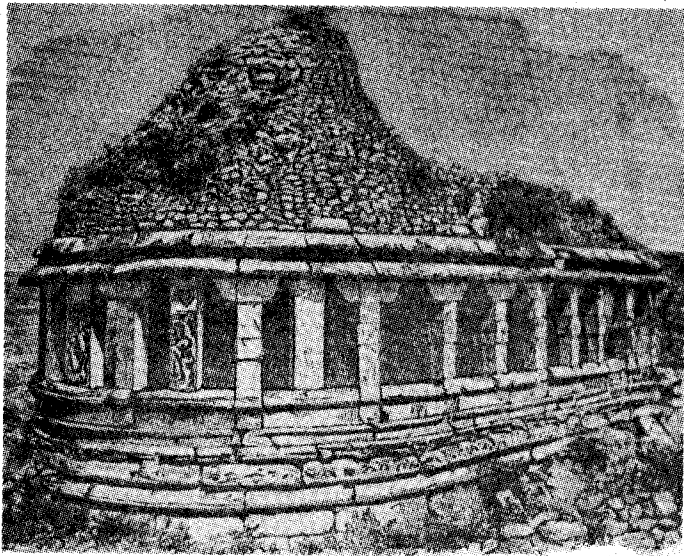


**Gazetteer of India**  
**Government of Karnataka**

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**BIJAPUR.**

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GAZETTEER

OF THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

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VOLUME XXIII.  
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BIJAPUR.

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*Under Government Orders.*  
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JAMES M. CAMPBELL.

*August 1884.*

## Letter of Appreciation

**In further recognition of the distinguished labours of Sir James McNabb Campbell, K.C.I.E., and of the services rendered by those who have assisted him in his work. His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to order that the following extract from Government Resolution No. 2885, dated the 11th August 1884, be republished and printed immediately after the title page of volume I, part-I, of the Gazetteer, and published in every issue.**

His Excellency the Governor in Council has from time to time expressed his entire approval of the volumes of the Gazetteer already published, and now learns with much satisfaction that the remaining Statistical Accounts have been completed in the same elaborate manner. The task now brought to a close by Mr. Campbell has been very arduous. It has been the subject of his uniring industry for more than ten years, in the earlier part of which period, however, he was occasionally employed on additional duties, including the preparation of a large number of articles for the Imperial Gazetteer. When the work was begun, it was not anticipated that so much time would be required for its completion, because it was not contemplated that it would be carried out on so extensive a scale. Its magnitude may be estimated by the fact that the Statistical Accounts, exclusive of the general chapters yet to be reprinted, embrace twenty-seven volumes containing on an average 500 pages each. Mr. Campbell could not have sustained the unflagging zeal displayed by him for so long a period without an intense interest in the subjects dealt with. The result is well worthy of the labour, expended, and is a proof of the rare fitness of Mr. Campbell on the ground both of literary ability and of power of steady application for the important duty assigned to him. The work is a record of historical and statistical facts and of information regarding the country and people as complete perhaps as ever was produced on behalf of any Government, and cannot fail to be of the utmost utility in the future administration of the Presidency.

"2. The thanks of Government have already been conveyed to the various contributors, and it is only necessary now to add that they share, according to the importance of their contributions, in the credit which attaches to the general excellence of the work".

The whole series of volumes is now complete and His Excellency in council congratulates Sir James M. Campbell and all associated with him in this successful and memorable achievement.

Bombay Castle  
14th February 1902

**H.O. Quin,**  
Secretary to Government,  
General Department.

## Preface

The earliest record of an attempt to arrange for the preparation of statistical account of the different districts of the Bombay Presidency is in 1843. In 1843 Government called on the Revenue Commissioner to obtain from the Collectors as part of their next annual report the fullest available information regarding their districts. The information was specially to include their own and their assistant's observations on the state of the cross and other roads, not under the Superintendence of a separate Department on the passes and ferries throughout the country, on the street in the provincial towns and on this extension and Improvement of internal communications. As from Collectors alone, could any knowledge of the state of the district be obtained the Collectors were desired to include in their Annual Reports, in observations on every point from which a knowledge of the actual condition of the country could be gathered with the exception of matters purely judicial which were to be supplied by the Judicial Branch of the Administration. Government remarked that, as Collectors and their Assistants during a large portion of the year moved about the district in constant and intimate communication with all classes they possessed advantages which, no other public officers enjoyed of acquiring a full knowledge of the condition of the country, the causes of progress or retrogradation, the good measures which requires to be fostered and extended, the evil measures which call for abandonment, the defects in existing institutions which requires to be remedied, and the nature of the remedies to be supplied. Collectors also, it was observed, have an opportunity of judging of the effect of British rule on the condition and character of the people, caste prejudices and on their superstitious observances. They can trace any alterations for the better or worse in dwellings, clothing and diet and can observe the use of improved implements of husbandry or other crafts, the habits of locomotion, the state of education particularly among the higher classes whose decaying means and energy under our most levelling systems compared with that of preceding governments will attract their attention. Finally they can learn how far existing village institutions are effectual to their end, and may be available for self-government and in the management of local taxation for local purposes.

The question of preparing District Statistical Manuals was not again raised till 1870. In October 1867 the Secretary of State, desired the Bombay Government to take steps for the compilation of a Gazetteer of the Presidency on the model of the Gazetteer prepared during that year for the Central Provinces. The Bombay Government requested the two Revenue Commissioners and the



Director of Public Instruction to submit a scheme for carrying into effect the orders of the Secretary of State. In reply the committee observed that a third form of special knowledge would be required for writing accounts of Parsis Khoja's and other castes and tribes that in short the undertaking would be one of much wider scope and greater difficulty than the preparation of the Gazetteer of the Central Provinces. Much thought would be required before the general plan could be laid down, and after the plan was fixed all sorts of questions as to arrangement and treatment of particular parts would be sure to arise. In the Committee's opinion local Revenue Officers could not as a rule find time to devote to work of this description without neglecting their ordinary duties; but they could correct and amplify such information as a special officer could compile from the published and unpublished records of the Government.

In January 1868 the Bombay Government decided that the general supervisor and direction for the work should be placed in the hands of a committee consisting of the Revenue Commissioner, the Director of Public instruction, and the Commissioner of Customs, and that an Editor should be appointed with a small copying establishment to act under the direction of the Committee. The Editor was to give his entire time to the work and was expected to finish it in about a year. He was to collect and arrange in alphabetical order all recorded information regarding the towns and other Places of Interest in each Collectorate, and to send printed on half margin each draft which completed the local officers for verification additions and alterations. When the drafts were returned and corrected by the Editor, they were to be laid before the Committee.

The Committee were requested to meet at Poona in June 1868 and to report to Government on the best mode of preparing and editing the Gazetteer and supervising its publication. In August 1868 the Bombay Gazetteer Committee composed of Messrs. A.F. Bellasis Revenue Commissioner N.D. Chairman, Mr. W.H. Havelock Revenue Commissioner S.D. and Sir Alexander Grant, Director of Public Instruction, submitted a report recommending various arrangements as far as possible. These proposals were sanctioned on the 11th September 1868. Adhering to the arrangement followed in the Gazetteer of the Central Provinces, which had met with the approval of the Secretary of State, Mr. Crowe, drew out the list of subjects which was forwarded to all Collectors Sub-Collectors and Survey Superintendents. In 1869 the draft articles prepared by Mr. Crowe were submitted to Sir W.W. Hunter of the Bengal Civil Service who expressed his satisfaction at the progress made. In 1871 Mr. Crowe's draft article on the Dharwar District was sent to Mr. W.W. Hunter for opinion who in addition to detailed criticism on various points made the following remarks.

"My own conception of the work is that, in return for a couple of days' reading, the Account should give a new Collector a comprehensive, and at the same time, a distinct idea of the District which he has been sent to administer. More reading can never supersede practical experience in the district administration. But a succinct and well conceived district account is capable of antedating the acquisition of such personal experience by many months and of both facilitating the systematising a Collector's personal enquiries. The Compiler does not seem to have caught the points on which a Collector would naturally consult the Account. In order that the Editor should understand these points it is necessary that he should have had practical acquaintance with district administration and that he should himself have experienced the difficulties which be set an officer on his taking charge of a District or Sub-Division. The individual points will differ according to the character of the country. For example in deltaic district the important question is the control of rivers; in dry districts it is the subject of water supply. But in all cases a District Account besides dealing with the local specialities should furnish an historical narration of its revenue and expenditure since it passed under the British rule of the sums which we have taken from it in taxes and of the amount which we have returned to it, in the protection of property and person and the other charges of Civil Government".

Sir William Hunter laid much stress on the necessity of stating the authority on the strength of which any statement is made and of the propriety of avoiding anything like libels on persons or classes. In 1871 Sir W. Hunter was appointed Director General of Statistics to the Government of India. In this capacity he was to be a central guiding authority whose duty it was to see that each of provincial Gazetteers contained the materials requisite for the comparative statistics of the Empire. In October 1871, pending the compilation of the census returns Mr. Crowe was appointed Assistant Collector at Sholapur and the Gazetteer records were left in a room in the Poona Collector's office. In September 1872 the whole of the Gazetteer records including thirty one articles on British Districts and Native States were stolen by two youths who had been serving in the collector's office as peons. These youths finding the Gazetteer office room unoccupied stole the papers piece by piece for the sake of the trifling amount they fetched as waste paper. Search resulted in the recovery in an imperfect state of seven of the thirty one drafts. The youths were convicted and sentenced to a year's imprisonment in the Poona Reformatory.

In 1873 Mr. Francis Chapman then Chief Secretary to Government took the preparation of the Gazetteer under his personal control. And in June 1873 Mr. James Macnabb Campbell, C.S. was appointed Compiler. An important

change introduced by Mr. Chapman was to separate from the preparation of the series of District Manuals certain general subjects and to arrange for the preparation of accounts of those general subjects by specially qualified contributors. Besides to the interest taken by Mr. Francis Chapman the Gazetteer owes much to the advice and to the support of Sir W.W. Hunter, who in spite of the delay and expense which it involved, secured the full record of the Survey and other details in which the Bombay revenue system is specially rich. The most important contributors of this class were for Bijapur Messrs. Mr. H.F. Silcock, C.S., A. Cumine, C.S. and M.H. Scott, C.S.

**Bombay**  
**Customs House 1896**

**James Macnabb Campbell.**

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Extract from the preface written by James M. Campbell for the Bombay Presidency volume (Part-I) on Gujarath History in 1896.

## Chief Editor's Note

Karnataka is noted for a rich tradition of preparing and publishing Gazetteer volumes. For the princely state of Mysore and Coorg Benjamin Lewis Rice edited and published three volumes in 1877-78. They presented remarkable studies and served a model. For the Bombay and Madras Provinces District Gazetteers were brought out between the last quarters of the 19th century and the first decade of 20th century. The districts of Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar and Kanara (Uttara Kannada) came to be covered in separate Gazetteer volumes being compiled and edited by James Macnabb Campbell or popularly known as J.M. Campbell. These volumes comprehensive in nature, contains chapters on General Description, Climate and Seasons, History etc., Since these volumes were published over hundred and fifteen years ago, it is hardly available in good condition. Understanding the immense reference value of these stupendous volumes The Department of Karnataka Gazetteer decided to reprint these volumes as per the resolution of the advisory committee under the chairmanship of Sri B.K. Bhattacharya, I.A.S., the then Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka. The purpose of reprinting these volumes is to help the research scholars and interested readers spread all over the world.

The Department is now bringing out this volume on Bijapur District (which includes Bagalkot district also) then under Bombay presidency (Published in 1884) as a first step and plans to publish all such volumes published earlier to independence era, stage by stage. I hope this stupendous task will receive good encouragement. I specially thank Mahabharatha Samshodhana Pratisthanam for processing mutilated pages of this volume by using a new Software Technology called 'Vyasa - e restoring tool' for preserving old and ancient manuscripts. In order to maintain the antic value of this volume we have used old photographs from Archaeological Survey of India report on Belgaum and Kaladagi Districts by James Burgess, Architectural Remains of Bijapur District by Henry Cousins, Art and Architectural volumes by Stella, Percy Brown and James Fergusson and a Pictorial Album of original photographs dating back to sixty to seventy years, obtained from Sri K.N.V. Shastry collections preserved at Mythic Society, Bangalore. We thank Dr. Jitendra Das, Superintending Archaeologist Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore Circle, Bangalore for permitting us to use photographs under his custody. I express my deep sense of gratitude to the honourable Minister of State for Kannada and Culture. Smt. Rani Satish for encouragement given to us. My thanks are specially due to Smt. Teresa Bhattacharya I.A.S. Chief Secretary to Government of

Karnataka and Chairman of Gazetteer Advisory Committee for her genuine interest and encouragement for the Gazetteer work. I thank Sri A.R. Chandrasaha Gupta I.A.S. for his continuous guidance and encouragement to bring out this rare volume. We acknowledge Sri N.C. Desai for providing art work to this volume. Special thanks are due to the Gazetteer staff, especially to Sri S.A. Jagannath, Senior Editor, (in-charge) and Dr. A. Lakshminarasimhan, Investigator for seeing this volume through the printing work with dedication. I wish to place on record the services of M/s. Abhimani Prakashana for neatly printing this volume within a stipulated time.

**Bangalore:**  
**27.03.2001**

**Dr. S.R. Honnalingaiah**  
Chief Editor,  
Karnataka Gazetteer.

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